



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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Recreationists need to note upcoming boat ramp closures at Lucky Peak Lake

Boise, Idaho, -- Boaters and other recreationists need to be aware of the upcoming boat ramp closures at Lucky Peak, according to a recreation manager for the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps' Turner Gulch ramp will close at 10 p.m. on Sept. 15 for the season. The ramp is currently open 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily. The closure over the dam will also prevent access to Foote Park and other locations, and is due to security concerns since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, said Dave Brownell, who heads the Corps' Lucky Peak office.

Spring Shores Marina may also be out of service before the end of the month, according to Brownell. The elevation is currently near 2,982 msl and dropping.

"Due to high irrigation demands during a low-water year, there is just not as much water in the river system as we usually have this time of year. The lake levels began dropping early and will continue through autumn," said Brownell. The Corps' Barclay Bay boat ramp has already closed and moorage at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Spring Shores Marina is limited and the main boat ramp will soon be out of operation.

"Lower lake levels also affect some of the shoreline access to the popular sunshelters and swim recreation docks," said Brownell.

"Visitation to the lake usually drops off after lake levels go down 10 feet or more, due to the mud and lack of shoreline access. This can create a safety concern. We want our visitors to be aware of the lower lake levels and some of the hazards that can bring. We want them to remember to wear their lifejackets when playing in, on or near the water," said Brownell.

Recreationists can get local river flows and lake elevation levels by calling the Bureau of Reclamation's recorded information line at (208) 334-9134. Recorded information on Spring

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Shores Marina is available at (208) 336-9505. The Corps' Lucky Peak Lake Office staff is available Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at (208) 343-0671.

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